CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

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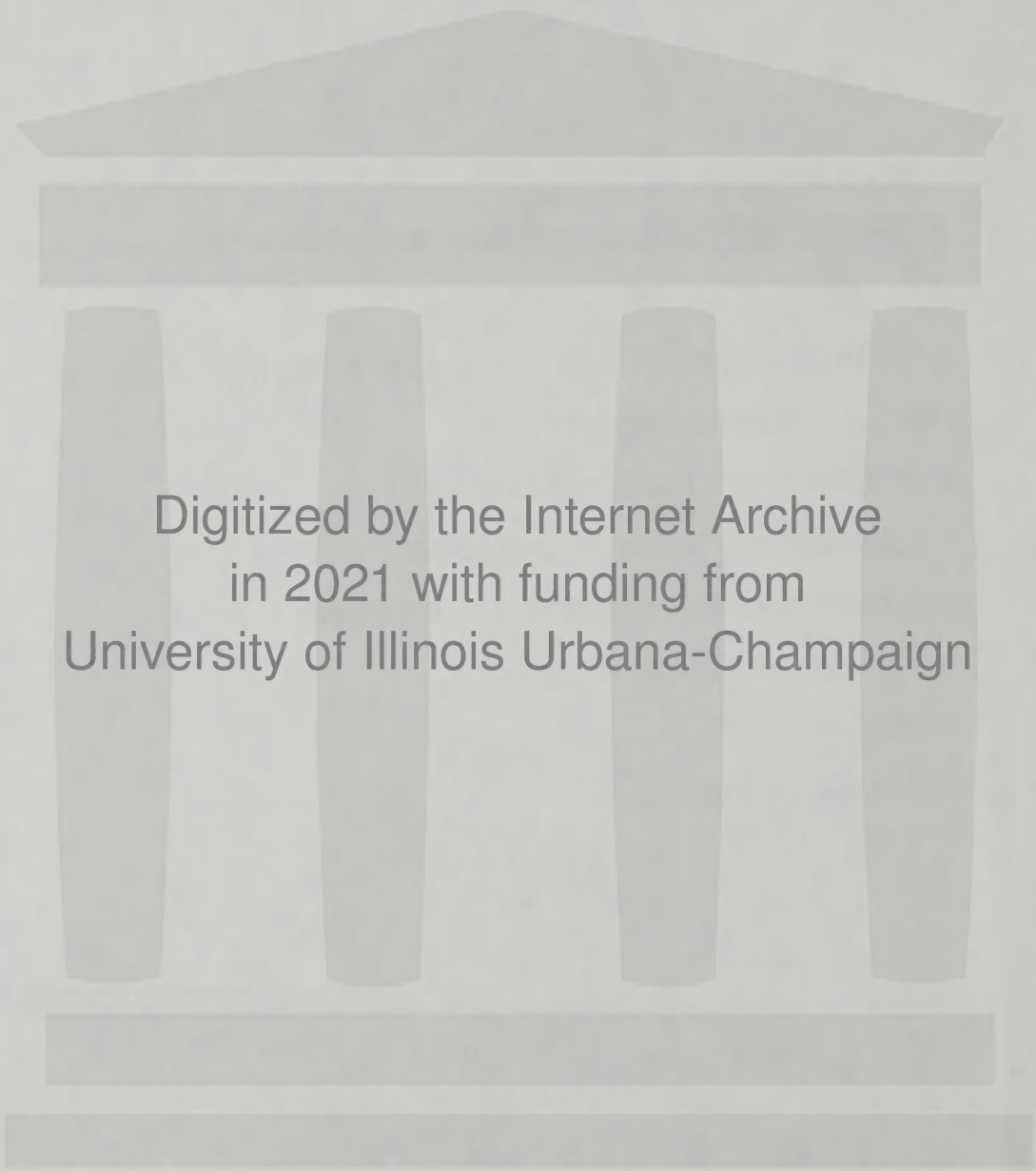

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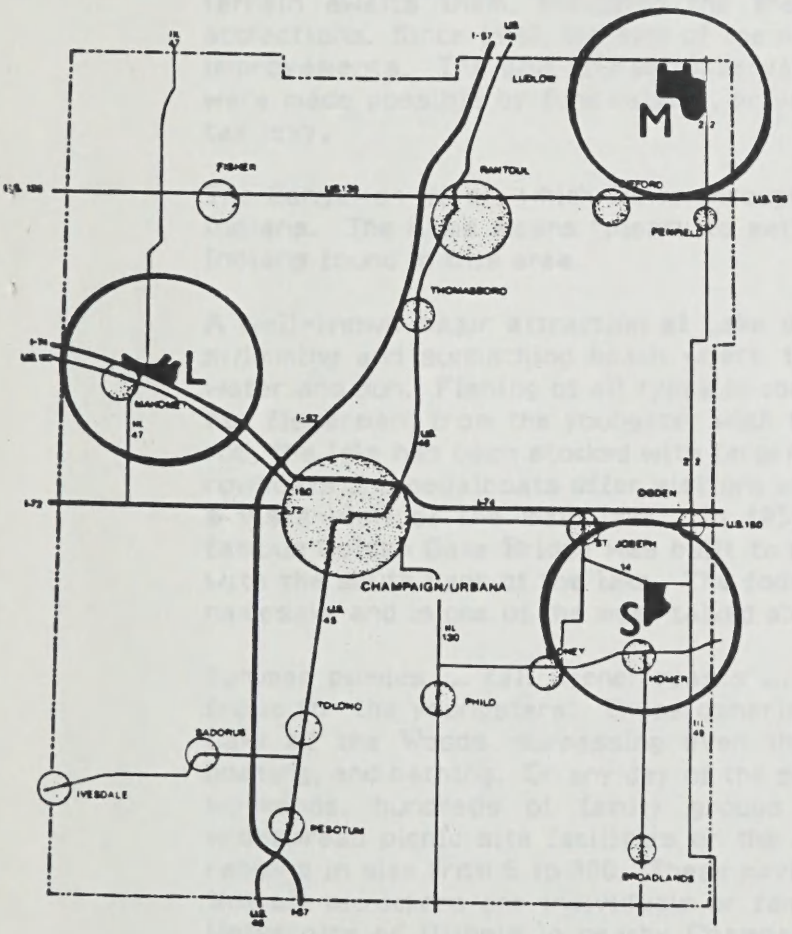
The Champaign County Forest Preserve District was created by referendum in 1935. Due to the Great Depression and World War II, it was not actually organized until 1948, 13 years later. It is composed of 3 1/2 square miles or six (6) sections less than the whole of Champaign County. The "charge" or purpose of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, as stated in the State of Illinois statutes, is to

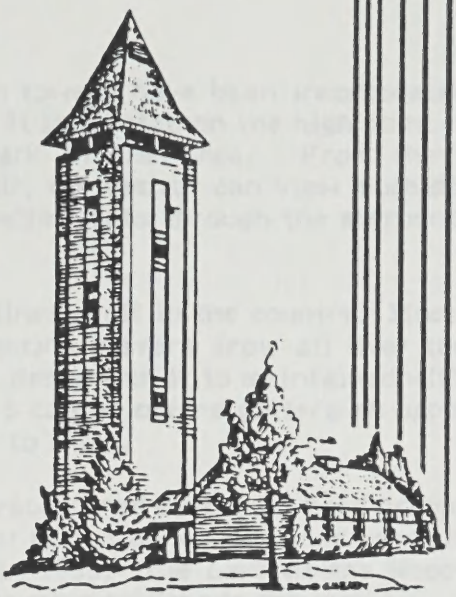
> acquire, preserve and protect significant areas of natural beauty and restore, restock, protect and preserve those areas as nearly as possible in a natural state and condition for the purpose of the education, pleasure, use and recreation of the general public.

This includes land containing one or more natural forests or forested areas, land connecting such forested areas, and adjacent lands capable of being forested. This task is demanding and sometimes controversial, because the acquisition of privately owned land is generally necessitated.



L – Lake of the Woods
S – Salt Fork River Forest Preserve
M – Middlefork River Forest Preserve

By state law, the Board of Commissioners of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District is appointed by the Chairman of the Champaign County Board of Commissioners with the concurrence of the Champaign County Board of Commissioners. Forest Preserve Commissioners serve five (5) year terms. Terms of office are staggered such that the entire board cannot be replaced at one time. The Board of Commissioners of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District serve without pay. The Board conducts regular meetings, which are open to the public, on the third Thursday of each month. Any resident of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District is eligible for appointment to the Board of the Commissioners. The District encompasses all of Champaign County except six (6) sections in the northwest corner of the county. By state statutes, the exclusion of these sections allows the District to operate as an independent political entity. This enables the District to levy a tax on real property to sustain the operation of three conservation and recreation areas. The Board of Commissioners believes that its present program constitutes a feasible and practical balanced approach to meeting its dual obligation of serving the people and honoring the principles of the Forest Preserve Act.



LAKE OF THE WOODS

Located near Mahomet, Illinois, Lake of the Woods is a pleasant surprise for visitors to the flat plains of central Illinois. Park guests are afforded easy access by Interstate 74, US 150, and ILL 47. Over a square mile of scenic, rolling forested terrain awaits them, providing the framework for many natural and man-made attractions. Since 1948, the size of the park has quadrupled due to numerous capital improvements. The golf course, observation tower, museum and botanical gardens were made possible by fund raising, private donations and memorials, and a modest tax levy.

The Sangamon River, which flows through the park, was named by the Pottawatomi Indians. The name means "plenty to eat", an indication of the lush conditions the Indians found in this area.

A well-known major attraction at Lake of the Woods is its main lake. There is a swimming and sunbathing beach where thousands come each summer to enjoy the water and sun. Fishing of all types is common on the lake which is open year-round. For fishermen, from the youngster with the bamboo pole to the expert with the fly rod, the lake has been stocked with largemouth bass, catfish, and trout. In addition, rowboats and pedalboats offer visitors an opportunity to enjoy some relaxation and a vista-view of the main lake. In 1955, a miniature replica of San Francisco's famous Golden Gate Bridge was built to connect the swimming and boat rental area with the south bank of the lake. The footbridge is 1/20th the size of its California namesake and is one of the most talked about attractions.

Summer picnics ... fall wiener roasts ... steak fries on the crisp days ... fun and frolic for the youngsters! These comprise the most used recreational facilities at Lake of the Woods, surpassing even the extensive use of the lake for fishing, boating, and bathing. On any day of the spring, summer, autumn season, weekdays or weekends, hundreds of family groups or larger gatherings are utilizing the widespread picnic site facilities or the large pavilions which accommodate groups ranging in size from 5 to 300. These pavilions are available on a reservation basis. Not all picnickers are individuals or families -- some are organizations from the University of Illinois in nearby Champaign-Urbana, outings for classes of school children, guests at wedding receptions, or a part of huge company picnics.

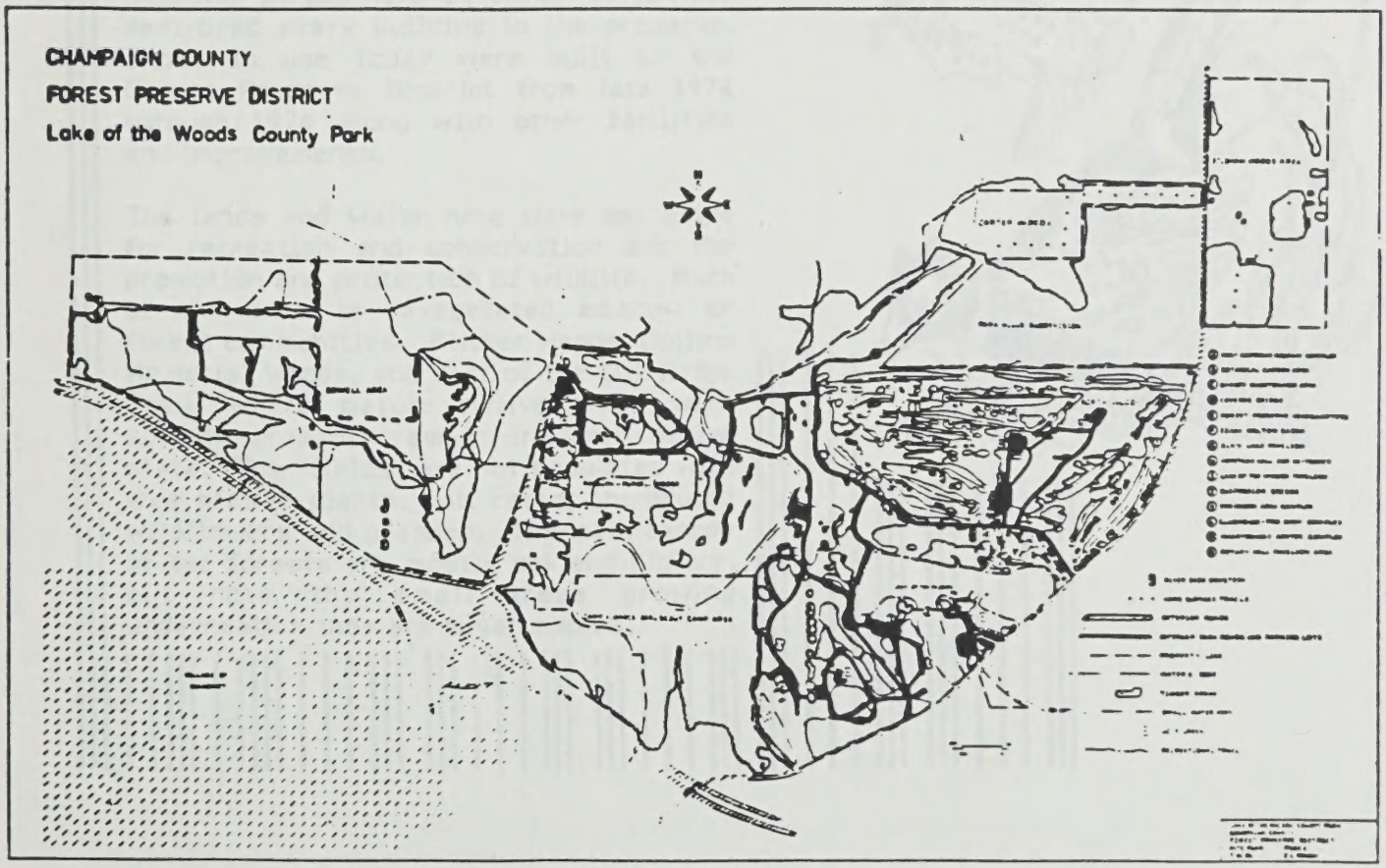
The best features of 50 famous European towers have been incorporated into the design of Lake of the Wood's "Hi-Tower". It is located on the high point in the park making it the most recognizable landmark in the area. From the 6th floor observation deck, sixty-five feet in the air, the visitor can view much of the park. The music of the tower's bronze carillon bells floats through the surrounding fields and woods.

Lake of the Woods offers 18 holes of the finest golf in the country. Since 1951, the course has been extremely popular, attracting players from all over the country. Designed by one of the country's foremost designers, it is maintained with the most up-to-date equipment available. The Par 3 course offers golfers an opportunity to sharpen their game and beginners a chance to learn.

The nostalgia of horse and buggy days is recaptured by the covered bridge spanning the Sangamon River in the northwest corner of the park. Designed for both foot and motor traffic, this bridge was dedicated in 1965. The Lake of the Woods Covered Bridge is one of the officially recognized covered bridges in the world.

The covered bridge leads to another major attraction of the park -- the Early American Museum. The Museum houses over 3000 items depicting nineteenth century rural life. Displays are varied and give a rare insight into the life and times of the early settlers.

The Botanical Gardens located adjacent to the Early American Museum offers some of the most beautiful and diverse flora in central Illinois. An increasingly popular spot, the garden has been host to a number of national, state, and regional flower shows as well as many weddings.



SALT FORK RIVER FOREST PRESERVE

Near the eastern border of Champaign County is the Salt Fork River Forest Preserve. Located northwest of Homer, Illinois, this conservation area was established by the State of Illinois in the 1960's to provide a water-oriented recreational area in a predominately agricultural community. Since 1971, it has been leased to the Champaign County Forest Preserve District to manage and develop the property for the benefit of the public.

With the acquisition of Flicker Woods (5 acres), Collins Memorial Woods (30 acres), and a three (3) acre homestead in the northeast corner, the Salt Fork River Forest Preserve has enlarged from its original size of 670 acres and now covers almost 710 acres. The 80 acre lake was created by impounding two small streams that provide drainage for nearly 7000 acres of farmland.

Furrows from plows and holes from broken field tile, seen along some of the trails, are gentle reminders that the land was in active farming until acquisition by the State. Outcroppings of sand and gravel on the hillside near the beginning of the Oak Ridge Trail are deposits from a melting glacier that probably originated in Canada. This geological formation is called a moraine and testifies to our link with the Ice Age world.

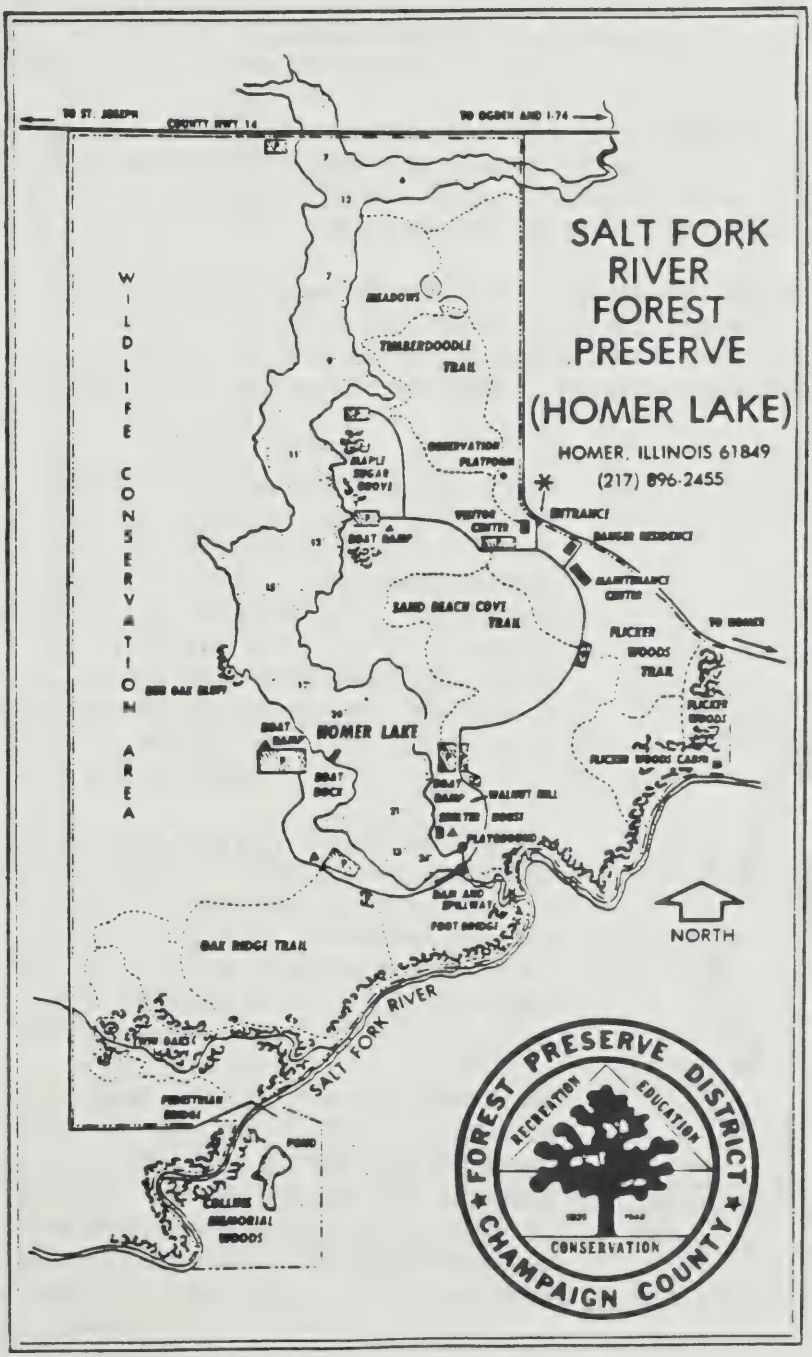
Lincoln was here too. The county highway bordering on the north of Salt Fork River Preserve was the horse trail he travelled on his judicial circuit. A bronze marker and rest area along the road commemorates this period in his early life.

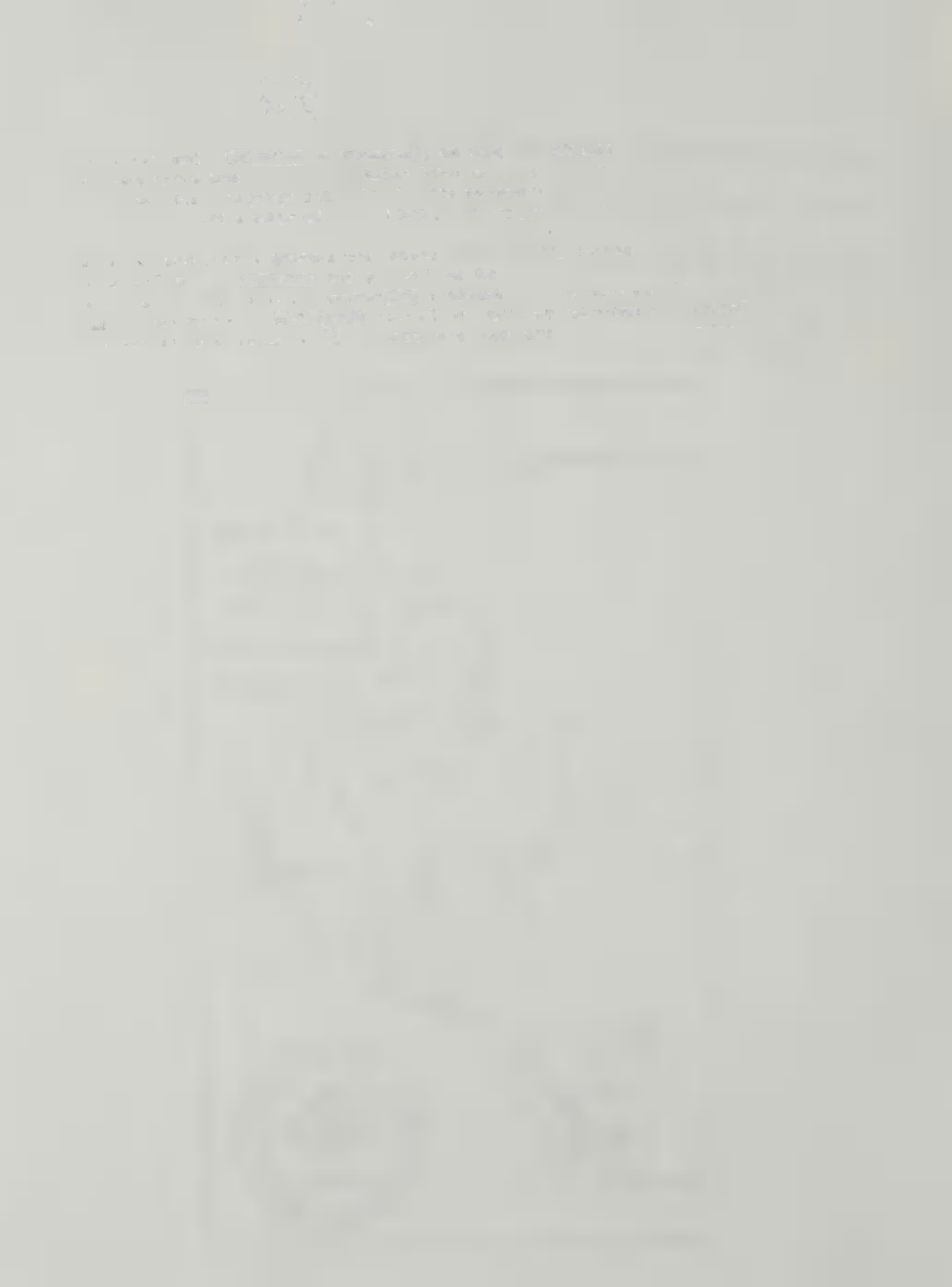
Disaster struck here in 1974. A tornado destroyed every building in the preserve. Those in use today were built by the Forest Preserve District from late 1974 through 1976 along with other facilities and improvements.

The lands and water here were set aside for recreation and conservation and the promotion and protection of wildlife. Much of the area is revegetated meadow or forest communities. Flicker Woods, Collins Memorial Woods, and part of the Oak Ridge Trail, where mature native trees were already present, remain in their native state. The "fields" are not populated with true prairie plants, but, rather introduced wildflowers and grasses. The main canopy of the forests are mostly oak and hickory, but note the small trees growing underneath - they are sugar maples.

Do not be discouraged if you do not see an abundance of wildlife. Instinctively, most animals are active at night to evade their natural predators and avoid contact with people. The Salt Fork River Preserve actually shelters many animals like deer, pheasants, owls, fox, coyote, beaver, muskrat, and turtles to name a few.

In addition to the many scenic trails, picnic areas, and fishing areas, one can find visitors enjoying lake activities such as sailboating and canoeing. The Trailside Visitors Center features interpretive displays and native animals. For groups, the Walnut Hill Shelter, an open-air pavilion, or Flicker Woods Cabin can be rented for the day. Visitors who spend the day are assured of a quiet and refreshing experience.





MIDDLEFORK RIVER FOREST PRESERVE

The Middlefork River Forest Preserve is located in the northeast corner of Champaign County. Four (4) miles north of Penfield, Illinois, the preserve is bisected by the picturesque Middlefork River, providing almost 3 miles of river frontage. With varying topography and cover, the 1500 acre tract has tremendous potential for a wilderness type experience. There are many "established" woodland communities as well as reforested areas.

The purchase of land for the Middlefork River Forest Preserve, destined to be the most scenic and natural in the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, began in 1974. The lands of Middlefork River Forest Preserve have been set aside for recreation and conservation and the promotion and protection of wildlife.

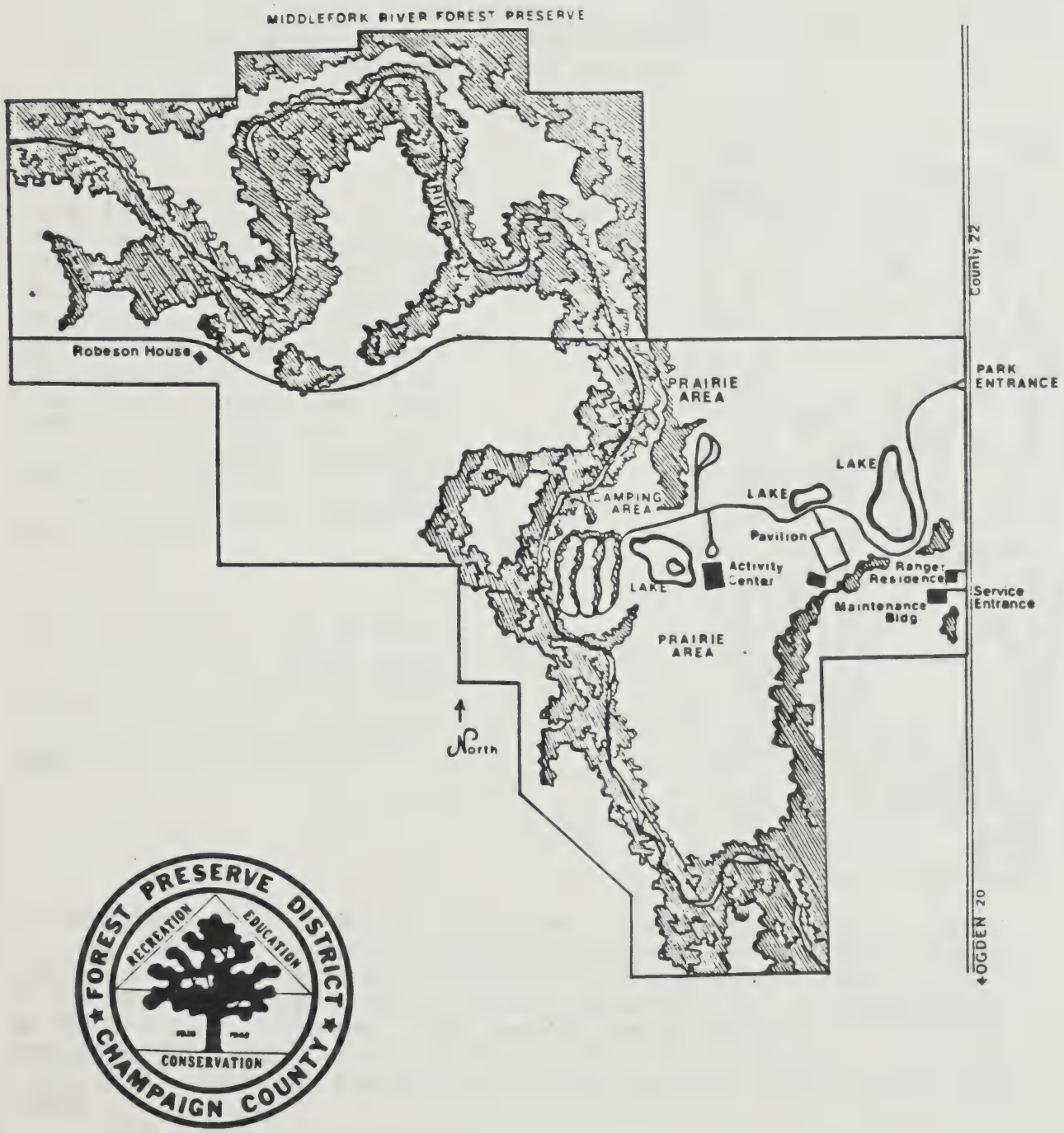
The meadows consist of introduced grasses and wildflowers. Some "natural" prairie exists in a 100 acre tract south of the activity center. The prairies are currently being restored with plants and seeds gathered from the immediate area and introduced into seed beds and border plantings. More rare species will be used as the material becomes available.

The year-round campground consists of sixty-five sites suitable for all types of camping including group camping. Each campsite is a quiet retreat shaded by large oak, hickory, and hackberry trees. Wildflowers grow in abundance. Playground equipment is nearby for the children. A three acre man-made lake, with a swimming beach, is one of the cool attractions during the summer months. A new addition is the shower and bath house to be completed in the fall of 1986.

The recently dedicated Activity Center is used for weddings, receptions, and picnics throughout the year. Its rustic exterior and spacious design lends itself to any function. Reservations are needed early. In addition, the newly remodeled Sugar Creek Shelter provides rental facilities for groups of almost any size.

The new Agricultural History Center chronicles the development of farming in Central Illinois from the use of horses through the age of steam before focusing on the advent of the gasoline tractor and 20th century agriculture prior to 1950. This center in conjunction with the restoration of the adjacent Levi Wood farm are a definite asset to Champaign County.

near
Penfield, Illinois


MIDDLEFORK RIVER FOREST PRESERVE
RIVER
Robeson House
PRAIRIE AREA
CAMPING AREA
LAKE
LAKE
LAKE
Pavilion
Activity Center
Ranger Residence
Service Entrance
Maintenance Bldg
PRAIRIE AREA
North
County 22
PARK ENTRANCE
OGDEN 20
FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
RECREATION
EDUCATION
CONSERVATION

SPECIAL EVENTS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Early American Museum offers the ever-popular events: Civil War Days, Yesterday's Farm, Colonial Muster, and Apple Harvest Day. A tradition at Lake of the Woods, these events draw visitors from a three hour radius to the park. Additional offerings have been Model T Ford Jamboree, Arts and Crafts and Summer Fun, Christmas Past, plus the new, and very well received, Illinois Folk Festival.

The Salt Fork River Forest Preserve also has its traditions. Maple Sugar Days for example, is held each spring. Two days of activities reflecting on the early spring duties of our forefathers, entertain and educate visitors to the maple groves and the techniques of making maple syrup. Weekend Environmental Education programs instituted during the summer of 1986 have proven to be very successful.

The Middlefork River Forest Preserve, our newest facility, also now conducts programs for visitors and campers. Movies and nature related programs have been very popular at the park.

An important, highly acclaimed, part of the Forest Preserve's offerings is its school programs. Over 4000 children visit the Early American Museum each school year to take part in the "Adventures in Learning" series. Teachers begin taking advantage of the excellent learning experiences at the kindergarten level with programs such as "Pretend You're A Pioneer". They continue through the curriculum with "The Home," "The Farm," "Champaign County Pioneers," and "Prairie Breaker". Additional programs to be added will deal with home crafts, food preservation, and the early village.

The Salt Fork River Forest Preserve boasts a dozen excellent environmental programs such as "Shoreline Treasures", "Homes, Habits, and Hardware", "Beetles, Bees, and Butterflies", and "Tree Talk". The staff naturalists are busy throughout the school year introducing the 2000 plus children to the outdoors habitat.

The Botanical Garden is well known for its own offerings such as "Kids and Trees and Plants", "Plant Propagation", "Plant a Prairie, Save a Prairie", and "Project Hug-A-Tree".

In addition to school children, all Preserves are busy working with various groups including day care centers, 4-H clubs, boy scouts and girl scouts, adult organizations, and senior citizens. Programs are tailored to the needs of the group and their age level.

Staff members are also kept busy speaking at various organizational meetings. Groups may learn in-depth about the Champaign County Forest Preserve District or receive detailed information about individual Preserve facilities. Popular programs include "Garden Potpourri," "Pioneer Life," "Quilts and History," and "A Look at the Environment Around You".

Volunteers are actively involved in the District activities. They help with special events, are responsible for the "Prairie Breaker" program, are instrumental in fund raising efforts, do clerical work, and help with the cleaning and building of exhibits.

The Early American Museum and the Visitor's Centers at all three Preserves undergo a variety of changes throughout the winter months. Exhibits are remodeled and new methods of interpretation are introduced in an effort to better educate the public.

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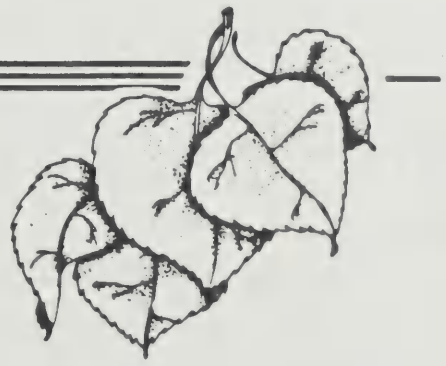
THE CONSERVATION FUNCTION

In addition to recreation, the District is concerned with conservation or the protection and management of the natural environment. Preliminary plans have been developed for "Stage 1" of a reforestation project at the Middlefork Forest Preserve. In the spring of 1986, 12 acres were planted with seedling trees. Approximately 4500 trees of various sizes were relocated for landscaping and reforestation purposes. Other trees were trimmed, pruned, or felled as needed. With the completion of a Natural Resources Management Plan scheduled within the next several years, additional plantings and management programs will be instituted.

The method of protecting wildlife is dependent upon the degree of danger to the threatened species. In most cases, wildlife can be protected by ensuring that their environment provides enough food and shelter. This involves both forestry practices and water management. In an effort to protect this environment, the District has secured fish congregators for all lakes, implemented the use of wood duck houses within the marsh areas of the Middlefork Forest Preserve, and removed all abandoned barb-wire fence on Forest Preserve property. Staff members are involved in meetings with State officials to request funds through the Duck Stamp Program to restore marshland areas along the floodplain at the Middlefork Forest Preserve. Throughout history, wildlife has suffered because of human encroachment into their habitat. Education is the key to changing over use or abuse of the natural environment. The workbook "Understanding the Ecosystems of the Middlefork River Forest Preserve" was developed by a staff member for this purpose and is available upon request. To allow visitors the opportunity to look firsthand at our wildlife, yet protect the environment, trail construction was begun and a regular maintenance program developed.



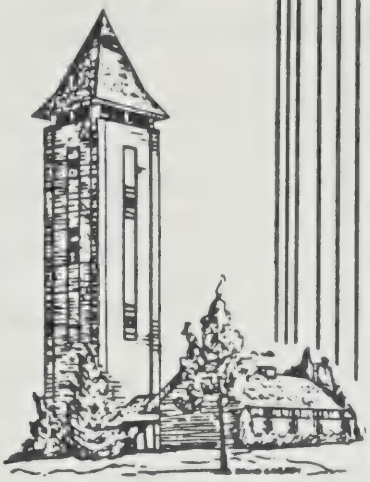
Today, few natural prairies remain in the world. Most of them have been turned into farms or grazing land. The initial phases of the Prairie Restoration Project, part of the Natural Resources Management Plan, entails researching historic plant populations, surveying Champaign County and outlying areas for remnant/relic native plant populations, and then collecting, storing, and processing these plants. More than 100 pounds of seed have been collected to begin this restoration project. The first phase (5 acres of an approximate 100 acre site) has been seeded. Ultimately, the Forest Preserve District hopes to have over 500 acres of restored native prairie within its boundaries.

RENTAL FACILITIES

	Lake of the Woods Park								Homer Lake (Salt Fork)		MiddleFork (Penfield)	
	Lake of the Woods Pavilion	Elk's Lake Pavilion	Izaak Walton Cabin	Riverview Club Retreat	Golf Course Club House	Sycamore Hollow Shelter	Rotary Hill Shelter	Swiss Valley Shelter	Walnut Hill Shelter	Flicker Woods Cabin	Activity Center	Sugar Creek Shelter
Electricity	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Grill	*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*		*
Water-hot			*	*	*		*				*	
Water-cold	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*
Range			*	*	*		*			*	*	
Refrigerator-small			*									
Refrigerator-regular				*	*		*					
Fireplace	*	*	*	*	*					*	*	
Tables-picnic	14					12	20	15	6			15
Tables-folding		33	12	10	17					2	23	
Chairs		200	48	40	100					12	135	
Electric heater			*	*								
Gas furnace	*	*										
Air conditioning					*							
Projection screen			*									
Patio					*							
Restroom-indoor	*	*	*		*				*		*	
Restroom-outdoor							*	*		*		*
Playground equipment		*				*	*	*	*			*
Horseshoe pits	*	*		*		*	*	*	*			
Volleyball court	*	*				*	*	*	*			*
Basketball court	*	*				*	*	*				
Seating capacity	112	200	48	48	100	60	75	100	48	12	135	90
Maximum capacity	500+	500+	50	100	100	65	200	120+	150	25	150	100
Indoor facility	*	*	*	*	*					*	*	
Outdoor facility						*	*	*	*			*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LAKE OF THE WOODS
1987 PROGRAMS



EARLY AMERICAN MUSEUM EVENTS

Civil War Days May 2&3
10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Antique Show & Model T Ford Jamboree
June 14 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Illinois Folk Festival
July 12 12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Historic Farm Days July 25 & 26
8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Yesterday's Farm August 9
12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M

Colonial Muster September 12 & 13
10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Apple Harvest Day October 4
11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Christmas Past November 29
12:00 - 5:00 P.M.!.

BOTANICAL GARDEN EVENTS

Spring Fling April 26

Prairie Frolic May 16-17

Peony Show June 6 - 7

Daylily Show July 11-12

All-American Selections
August 2

Planning and Planting for the
Home Gardener August 30

Prairie Expo Sept. 19

MUSEUM CLASSES

Introduction to Traditional
Woodworking
Mondays & Wednesdays, May 11
thru May 27 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
Harvesters $22.00, Non-Members $25.00
Registration & fees due by April 24

Introduction to Basic Blacksmithing
Saturday, June 6 & 13 9:00-4:00 P.M.
Harvesters $57.00, Non-Members $60.00
Registration & fees due by May 29

Introduction to Traditional Handwork
Tuesdays, September 8 thru October 6
7:00 to 9:00 P.M.
Harvesters $22.00, Non-Members $25.00
Registration & fees due by August 21

The Art of Stenciling
Thursdays, October 8 thru 29
7:00 to 9:00 P.M.
Harvesters $8.00, Non-Members $10.00
Registration and fees due by
September 25

1987 HOURS

Open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Weekends only May 2-24, Sept. 5 - Oct. 4
Daily May 25 thru Sept. 7 and Nov. 29

SALTFORK RIVER FOREST PRESERVE (HOMER LAKE)

1987 PROGRAMS

January	17	1:00 P.M.	Snow Fest
January	23	6:30 P.M.	Tracking the Masked Bandit
January	31	11-5 P.M.	Project Wild Workshop
February	8	9- 4 P.M.	Fishing Hole Swap & Sell
February	15	1- 4 P.M.	Homer Circle Bass Club
February	21	1:00 P.M.	Bluebird Homes for Rent
February	22	1- 4 P.M.	Rod and Jig Making Workshop
February	27	7:00 P.M.	Organic Gardening
March	14 & 15	11- 4 P.M.	Maple Sugar Days
March	20	5:30 P.M.	Return of the Timberdoodle
March	28	2:00 P.M.	Animal Autographs
April	11	1:00 P.M.	Bird Babies and Bunny Eggs
April	18 OR 25	2:00 P.M.	Spring Beauties
May	1	5:30 P.M.	Frog Chorus
May	2	10-12 P.M.	THE LANDSCAPE IN PASTEL
May	2	1-3 P.M.	THE LANDSCAPE IN PENCIL
May	8	6:30 P.M.	Kritter Knapper
May	16	10-2 P.M.	Incredible Edibles Workshop
May	22	6:00 P.M.	Campfire Cooking
May	30	10-12 P.M.	THE LANDSCAPE IN PASTEL
May	30	1-3 P.M.	THE LANDSCAPE IN PENCIL
June	5	8:00 P.M.	Stories in the Stars
June	12	7:30 P.M.	Time Voyager
June	13	10-12 P.M.	THE LANDSCAPE IN PASTEL
June	13	1-3 P.M.	THE LANDSCAPE IN PENCIL
June	20	7:30 P.M.	Summer Solstice celebration
July	3	6:30 P.M.	The Grub Monster
July	10	8:00 P.M.	Bats Need Friends

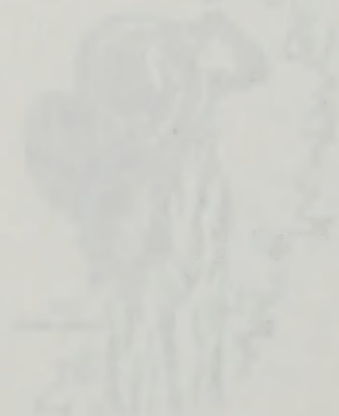
July	10	8:00 P.M.	Bats Need Friends
July	17	8:00 P.M.	Hoot, Hiss & Screech
July	24	7:00 P.M.	These Precious Few
July	31	6:30 P.M.	Snappers, Sliders and Softshells
August 3,	10 & 17	7:00 P.M.	Careers in Conservation
August	8	2:00 P.M.	Snakes Alive!
August	21	8:00 P.M.	To know the Night
August	29	3:00 P.M.	Shoreline Safari
Sept.	12	2:00 P.M.	Flutterbies
Sept.	17	6:30 P.M.	Harvest Moon Campfire
Oct.	3	1:00 P.M.	Collins Pond Picnic
Oct.	17	2:00 P.M.	River Exploration
Oct.	31	6:30 - 8 P.M.	Halloween Event
Nov.	7	1:00 P.M.	Dried Flower Arranging
Nov.	14	1:00 P.M.	Holiday Wreaths
Dec.	12	1-3 P.M.	Christmas for Critters
Dec.	17	6:30 P.M.	Holiday Bedtime Story Hour

MIDDLEFORK FOREST PRESERVE

1987 PROGRAMS

May	23	10:00 A.M.	Scavenger Hunt
May	23	8:30 P.M.	Cartoon Fest
June	13	10:00 A.M.	Sand Castles contest
June	13	3:00 P.M.	Animal Tracks
July	25	8-5 P.M.	Historic Farm Day
July	26	8-5 P.M.	Historic Farm Day
July	11	10:00 A.M.	Shoreline Safari
August	8	8-10 A.M.	Treasure Hunt
August	8	7:00 P.M.	Bats
August	29	10:00 A.M.	Critter Crawl

For information on these and other programs, call 586-2612



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